

To whom it may concern,

Regarding the upcoming meeting to discuss and possibly impose further restrictions on the landscape industry, I would like to offer these comments as someone with over 27 years in the industry and working for one of the larger contractors in the state.

Implementing change and pushing for greater efficiency guidelines is critical as it relates to all components of landscaping from irrigation delivery systems, allowed watering days, drip, low flow nozzles, soil polymers, mulching, drought tolerant plants, reduced water requirement lawns, ET based controllers, flow sensors, master valves, etc. All of these play a part in an overall conscientiousness to save water. However, some can be changed relatively easily and quickly, some will take time to be absorbed and paid for by the public, and some are just too much of a stretch for modern technology. Ultimately what it should come down to in it's most simplistic form is water allotment. I would recommend you base the water allotment according to the lot size, for example, would be one simple way to control and monitor usage with heavy fines and or penalties being enforced for non compliance. This would seem more feasible than implementing a laundry list of restrictions on areas that can be landscaped, how they can be planted, how they can be irrigated, what days they can be watered, the efficiency and type of the irrigation system, etc. etc. etc. To me this just skirt tails around the real issue and that is we need to use less and that less should be based upon a property size. Seems easier to manager one component than a hundred and deal with people constantly manipulating the rules?

My thoughts also apply to the changes being considered as it relates to irrigation efficiency of the delivery systems, ETAF modifications that could make any turf noncompliant, and precipitation rate mandates that could almost eliminate the use of high effeciency spray heads, some large turf rotors and even some drip applications, which are important in a lot of situations. Again, changes that are implementable that allow the public to still work within the confines of their existing landscapes would be the most logical path to success. People will not be able to afford or logistically comply with some of these considerations / requirements. It's a little like saying alcohol is now only allowed to be made if the percent content is less than 2%! That would in a sense prevent it from being alcohol, just going about it in a different way than saying no one can drink it anymore. Instead the policy should be you can drink it but only up to your allotment and then you are done.

I am sure my comments are consistent with others you have received. We already have a measure in place to monitor water use via your water bill each month. Use that as a way to control water consumption by making the penalty for over use strict and painful. If we get heavy rains the next year or two and the restrictions go away then it's simple for people to then just add more turf or plants as their usage allotment increases. Putting in place requirements related to irrigation systems and plant types just does not make sense for today as well as tomorrow. Make people save and become efficient conscience due to penalizing them for wasting water but leave the how and where to them so they feel they have a sense of ownership and control over their properties.

Thank you very much,

Harold Young
CEO